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Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants submit a complete set of replacement drawings (6 sheets, informal) for FIGS. 1-6.

FIG. 1 has been amended to show rigid and flexible plate segments that are described in ¶ [0023] of the specification.

FIG. 2 has been amended to show the claimed compressible padding feature.

FIG. 6 has been amended to show the claimed hooks and fasteners feature.

FIGS. 3-5 remain unchanged.

No new matter is added.

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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend ¶[0023] of the specification as follows:

[0023] FIG. 2 illustrates a similar frontal view of the two plates 110, 120, and shows one possible position 140 of the plates with respect to each other. The plates 110, 120 may mold to the contours of a patient's body. In FIG. 2 the plates 110, 120 are positioned so a shoulder may be immobilized at approximately 90 degrees. The joint 130 may be locked in place. The plates 110, 120 may fit the general contours of a patient's arm and lateral upper-body. Flexible and rigid properties of these plates may be based on a variety of different materials or combinations thereof, such as, for example, natural or synthetic fibers, fiberglass, carbon fiber, polycarbonate alloys, polymers, or moldable metals and foams. The plates 110, 120 may remain rigid in the lengthwise direction 150 while in the width-wise direction 160 the plates may be molded into a semi-cylindrical or concave shape 170 that is adapted to engage the curved portion of a body part such as an upper arm, side of a torso, thigh or leg. In the width-wise direction 160, plate 110 or 120 may be flexible or rigid. Metal or plastic strips (not shown) may also be provided as stiffening members secured in the lengthwise or crosswise direction (150 or 160, respectively) to maintain rigidity of the plates, particularly when the plates are made of a lightweight material that is not substantially rigid when used to support a heavy weight such as an arm or leg. Plate 110 and/or 120 may also be formed of multiple, rigid, parallel strips 190 (not shown) that are flexibly connected together with a flexible material 192 such as a textile, plastic or other synthetic material, so that in the width-wise direction 160 plate 110 or 120 may be brought into close proximity to the curved portion of the body on which the device is to be secured. Alternatively, multiple, flexible plate segments 192 may be joined together with rigid connections 190 in order to form plates 110 and/or 120. Plate 110 or 120 may also be formed of

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a flexible material which includes one or more rigid supports in the lengthwise direction. If a plate is flexible, means are provided to ensure that the plate can be secured to the body part without falling off inadvertently, as described in further detail according to the description of

FIG. 6 et seq.